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INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS.

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UP THE COLORADO.

From Ehrenberg to Mohave.

Just as the first gray streaks of the morning of the 6th of May appeared, the clang-lang of the bell summoned the engineer to "start her," and the Gila steamed slowly away from the bank, and we were off up river. After some hours we described the scenery of the Colorado, so that your correspondent has no need of laboring like the mountain and bringing forth a "mum" in the description. About noon we described the smoke of the Mohave, and in a short time both steamers were putting into opposite banks about a quarter of a mile apart. Soon the Mohave came along side and began to take our freight, and we, the passengers, gathered our paper collars and hid us aboard that steamer, which was to turn about and take us the remainder of the journey. The transfer was not completed until night, so both crafts lay fast and snug at the bank until morning, at the first appearance of which we were again on our way. Our breakfast, the first on our new boat, was a sad and melancholy one; and not all the facetious attempts of Superintendent Polhamus could chase away the gloom caused by the two vacant chairs, formerly occupied by Mr. Dorrington, of the SENTINEL, (who was our fellow passenger as far as Ehrenberg,) and Purser Millar. Purser McCoy's loquacity, however, added to Capt. Polhamus' well-meaning

efforts, prevented us from being too much depressed.

About 11 A. M. we arrived at the mouth of the Colorado, where we were met by the new agent, Capt. Clark, accompanied by Genl. O. H. Howard, Indian Inspector, came along side in a flat boat in which they were about to go down the river to visit the lower portion of the reservation. Speaking of the reservation, things have improved considerably since the late agent was let down and out, and Capt. Clark, the new incumbent, appears to be the right man in the right place. The gossips in this locality say that things were so mixed when the "Col." vamoosed that it will take some time to straighten out the tangled skein; but already both the morals and the morale are greatly improved. At this place we were boarded by a gentleman who desired passage to Mohave Dr. H. ten Kate, of Paris, France, Delegate of the Holland Geographical Society, and the Anthropological Society of Paris. The Doctor is on a scientific mission in this country, to study the characteristics of the various Indian tribes, both as to physical development and differences, and language, manners and customs. He has already penetrated into Lower California and Mexico, and will visit the representative tribes in this territory before returning. The doctor is an enthusiast in his scholastic researches, and he regrets greatly that his work could not have been commenced a half century earlier, as the Red Men are passing away so rapidly before the march of civilization that in two or three decades little will remain for scientists to study. Let them pass!

On the afternoon of the 8th we were going through Mohave Canyon and just at twilight came in sight of the R. R. bridge at or, rather, 20 miles above—the Needles. We steamed through the gap which has not yet been filled with piles, and tied up to the bank on the Arizona side. From the deck of the steamer we could see the lights of the little

town of tents, which the contractors of the A. & P. have erected for the shelter of their workmen. The town proper, however, is to be built on the California side, about 2½ miles from the bridge, and three-quarters of a mile from the river. Here will probably be located the hotel, shops, tanks, etc. The bridge will be 1,000 feet long from bank to bank. The bents are fifteen feet apart with eight piles to the bent. A second bridge of lesser dimensions is being built across a slough on the opposite side of the bottom. It seems from what I could see that no draw is to be built in the bridge at present and it is quite probable that the C. S. N. Co. will have to make headquarters at the bridge and run up and down therefrom.

On the morning of the 9th the usual infernal grumble of incongruous sounds announced that the Mohave was about to begin her day's work, and we turned out, sadly regretting our two hours lost rest, and disappointed to find that a bend in the river prevented our getting a view of the bridge by good honest daylight. A few hours afterwards we came in sight of the Fort, perched upon the mesa, with its green trees and foliage, looking like a veritable oasis in the wilderness. And here, as our journey for the present ends, it may not be amiss to say something of the officers to whose kindness and courtesy we owe what of comfort we experienced during our seven day's trip. A more urbane, polite and accommodating set of officials we certainly

never met. The small and large. The men seem to be well educated, and the exhibition of this in the railroad and steamboat officials is as rare as it is beautiful.

Supt. Polhamus is so well known that it is almost superfluous to speak of his earnest and unflinching solicitude for the comfort of all about him and of his untiring patience in answering the thousand and one questions which were day after day propounded to him by inquisitive but not over discrete travelers. Of Capt. Mellon, it is only necessary to hear the honest hearty tones of his bass voice to know that he is a man with a heart as big as his voice is strong; and most thoroughly is he posted on the vagaries of the Colorado sand bar. Of the pursers it is only necessary to say that they are as fair in their duties and are the best of pleasant gentlemen. The engineers are what all handlers of the throttle should be, aware of the importance of their duties, and alive to the necessity of performing them well and thoroughly.

OCCASIONAL.
Fort Mohave, May 24, 1883.

Careless Way of Speaking.

Among the common errors in the use of language are these: mispronouncing of unaccented syllables, as terrible for terrible; the omission of a letter or short syllable, as goin' for going and ev'ry for every; and the running of words together without giving to every one a separate and distinct pronunciation.

I know a boy who says: "Don't wanten," when he means, "I don't want to"; "Watjer say," for "What did you say"; "Where ds go?" instead of: "Where did he go?" Sometimes you hear, "flood," instead of "If I could"; "Wilfer can," instead of "I will if I can"; and "Howjerknow?" for "How do you know?" And have you never heard

"m—m" instead of "yes," and "ni—ni" for "no?"

Let me give you a short conversation I overheard the other day between two pupils of our high school, and see if you never heard anything similar to it.

"Wherejergo lasnight?"

"Hadder skate."

"Jerfind thice hard'n'good?"

"Yee; hardnuff."

"Don't you?"

"No! Biff! (he says nothing)." "Howlde Jersey?"

"Pardner."

"Lanterns?" "Wan't you?" "Wan't you?" "I wan't you?"

yer nowterskate."

"H—m, floodn't skate bettern you I'd sell out'n'quit."

"Well, we'll tryace'n'seefyer-can."

He-e they took defferent streets and their conversation ceased.

These boys write their compositions grammatically, and might use good language and speak it distinctly if they would try. But they have got into this careless way of speaking, and make no effort to get out of it. Whenever they try to speak correctly they have to grope their way along slowly, and their expression seems forced or cramped, as though it were hard work for them to talk.

Almost every one talks enough to keep well in practice, and those who try to speak correctly on every occasion soon find that this practice makes it just as easy for them to use the best language at their command as to use the most common.

Try it, boys, and see if you cannot make some improvement.

Keep close watch over your conversation, and when you discover any habitual error, drop it and substitute the correct word, phrase or mode of expression. You will find that it will sound much better and be just as easily spoken. And, as you get older and enter a different and wider circle of society, you can have acquired for yourself a command of language and a correctness of expression of which you need not be ashamed.

An Innovation.

"My daughter is to be married next week," he said as he sat down and removed his hat.

"And you will present her with a check for \$50,000, of course," replied the broker.

"Well, no, that's what I called to see you about. I believe in innovations."

"You'll give her \$25,000 in cash, eh?"

"No, sir. I was thinking that you might take about \$500 and buy about \$75,000 worth of some sort of bonds."

"As an investment for an income?"

"No—for a show. Get \$1,000 bonds, if possible. Get some that are printed in red and blue ink, if you can. If they have big red or blue seals on so much the better. If they begin 'In the name of God, amen,' they will look the more important. See that the paper is good, the printing clear, the signature in a bold, heroic hand, and send your bill to me. The time has gone by when the public can be fooled by a check."

—Wall Street News.

A woman in Albany while house-cleaning found a large roll of bank bills. Now don't get excited, ladies, and go to cleaning house all over again, they were on an old State bank which failed years ago and they were worth nothing.

Plantation philosophy: Plesures decrease as da come near us. De fish is a heap bigger fore he gets it outen de water. De injurious in dis wor' is allers de fanciest. De brandy bottle is fixed up finer dan de breadtray.



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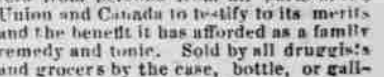
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